

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 06029 271549 Z

51

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EUR-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PRS-01 IO-03 RSR-01 /057 W

----- 065375

R 271345 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9531

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

S E C R E T ROME 6029

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, VT, PO

SUBJECT: LATEST VATICAN THINKING ON PORTUGUESE AFRICA

REF: LUSAKA 1101

SUMMARY: VATICAN OFFICIAL STRONGLY CRITICIZED PORTUGAL'S AFRICAN POLICIES. ALTHOUGH CHURCH UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE TO TAKE CONCRETE STEPS TO AID IN SEARCH FOR PEACE, HE SEES LITTLE THAT CHURCH CAN ACHIEVE, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF DETERIORATED VATICAN- GOP RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH ILLING AT VATICAN JUNE 22, MSGR. GASPARI, VATICAN DEPUTY FORMIN, PROVIDED IN UNUSUALLY CANDID TERMS VATICAN'S LATEST THINKING ON SITUATION IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA. GASPARI, WHO VISITED ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE IN 1971, EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT GOP WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER ANY SIGNIFICANT POLICY CHANGES FOR OVERSEAS TERRITORIES, PARTICULARLY QUESTIONS OF GREATER LOCAL AUTONOMY OR INDEPENDENCE. DIALOGUE BETWEEN HOLY SEE AND PORTUGAL EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, GASPARI COMMENTED, WITH PORTUGAL SUPPORTING MANY POLITICAL VIEWS WHICH VATICAN AS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ROME 06029 271549 Z

WELL AS FOREIGN MISSIONARIES IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA FIND IMPOSSIBLE TO DEFEND. IN ADDITION TO FACT THAT PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR BRAZAO MAINLY INTERESTED IN FINISHING OUT HIS CAREER AT HOLY SEE BY WRITING BOOKS ON HISTORY, HE AND HIS STAFF PERHAPS AS STAUNCHLY CONVINCED ADHERENTS TO GOP POLICY AS ONE COULD FIND, GASPARI STATED.

2. BRAZAO COUNSELOR HAS ALSO CONFIRMED TO ILLING DIFFICULTY OF DEALING WITH HIGH- LEVEL VATICAN OFFICIALS. HE RECENTLY COMMENTED THAT " SOME OF OUR CONTACTS AT VATICAN ARE SO FAR LEFT THAT ONE COULD EVEN BELIEVE THEY HAD COMMUNIST SYMPATHIES." (COMMENT: SUCH A HIGHLY EXAGGERATED STATEMENT COULD HARDLY APPLY TO GASPARI WHO ONE OF MOST RESERVED AND POLITICALLY MODERATE FIGURES IN VATICAN ADMINISTRATION. FOR NORMALLY LACONIC GASPARI TO CRITICIZE PORTUGUESE POLICY SO FORCEFULLY IS IN OUR VIEW A GOOD INDICATION OF DEEP VATICAN CONCERN OVER PORTUGUESE AFRICA AND OF GULF WHICH HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN HOLY SEE AND GOP.)

3. GASPARI CRITICIZED PORTUGUAL' S AFRICAN POLICY AND LABELLED CLAIMS OF BIRACIALISM AS PROPAGANDA SMOKESCREEN BEHIND WHICH AFRICANS HAVE VIRTUALLY NO POSSIBILITY OF ASSUMING A REASONABLE POSITION IN SOCIETY AND CERTAINLY NO CHANCE OF ATTAINING MEANINGFUL LEADERSHIP. SCHOOL SYSTEM AND STRINGENT RULES FOR INTEGRATION MANAGE TO PRECLUDE MOST AFRICANS

FROM ACHIEVING FULL CITIZENSHIP STATUS, HE SAID.

4. GASPARI SAID HE HAS IMPRESSION THAT PORTUGUESE ARMY, AT PRICE OF MAINTAINING 100,000 TROOPS IN COLONIES, HAS MILITARY SITUATION SLIGHTLY MORE UNDER CONTROL THAN IN PAST YEARS. OTHER FACTORS OPERATING AGAINST LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ARE LOSS OF NUMBER OF PROMINENT LEADERS AND GENERAL DIVISION IN RANKS. THESE TWO FACTORS, HOWEVER, PROBABLY HAVE NOT WEAKENED DETERMINATION OF REBEL LEADERS TO EXPELL PORTUGUESE FROM AFRICA. GASPARI SAID THAT VATICAN WAS HORRIFIED BY REPORTS OF AN EXTENSIVE MASSACRE OF AFRICANS WHICH TOOK PLACE RECENTLY IN MOZAMBIQUE. THESE REPORTS WHICH HAVE NOT YET HIT MEDIA COME FROM LOCAL PRIESTS AND INDICATE THAT A NUMBER OF VILLAGES HAVE BEEN ANNIHILATED IN REPRISAL FOR REBEL RAIDS.

5. GASPARI CONFIRMED THAT WHEN ZAMBIAN AMBASSADOR PHIRI WAS IN SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ROME 06029 271549 Z

ROME EARLIER THIS YEAR HE PRESENTED TO POPE LETTER FROM PRESIDENT KAUNDA ASKING THAT VATICAN ATTEMPT TO MEDIATE BETWEEN PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT AND LIBERATION GROUPS OPERATING IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA. ALTHOUGH NOT CONTAINED IN MESSAGE, PHIRI MADE ORAL PRESENTATION IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED KAUNDA' S WISH THAT POPE WOULD ENCOURAGE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT TO MEET SECRETLY WITH REBEL CHIEFS IN HOPE

THAT PEACEFUL SOLUTION MIGHT BE WORKED OUT. VATICAN NOW SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING HOW IT MIGHT LEND SUPPORT TO FINDING SOLUTION TO PORTUGUESE AFRICAN TURMOIL. SINCE HOLY SEE' S CREDIT IS LOW WITH GOP, GASPARI SEES LITTLE INFLUENCE IT CAN BRING TO BEAR. BUT, HE SAID SITUATION IS SO GRAVE IT DIFFICULT FOR CHURCH TO CONTINUE SILENCE, ESPECIALLY SINCE PRESSURE ON VATICAN COMING FROM MANY QUARTERS. AS EXAMPLE, HE MENTIONED THAT AT ALL INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC GATHERINGS CONVERSATION EVENTUALLY TURNS TO WHAT CHURCH CAN DO TO AID PEACE IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA. GASPARI PRAISED EXCELLENT AND COURAGEOUS WORK OF ARCHBISHOP SENSI, PAPAL NUNCIO IN LISBON, AND SAID VATICAN HAS RECENTLY PROTESTED TO AMBASSADOR BRAZAO OVER SHABBY TREATMENT SENSI HAS BEEN RECEIVING IN LISBON. GASPARI SAID PATRIARCH RIBIERO WAS A GOOD MAN WITH HIS OWN PROBLEMS IN METROPOLITAN PORTUGAL AND THEREFORE UNABLE TO PRESSURE GOP ON BEHALF OF AFRICANS.

6. ACCORDING TO GASPARI, CRITICAL SITUATION IS DEVELOPING RE MINISTERING TO SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF MANY PORTUGUESE AFRICANS. AREAS UNDER REBEL CONTROL OFTEN HAVE NO PRIESTS AND PRIESTS WHO ATTEMPT TO ENTER THESE AREAS ARE LABELLED AS ANTI- PORTUGUESE AND TRAITORS BY LOCAL PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES. THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN MISSIONARIES HAS ALSO FALLEN SHARPLY AND GOP HAS VIRTUALLY HALTED ISSUING VISAS TO REPLACEMENTS. SPANISH BURGOS FATHERS HAVE ALL BEEN EXPELLED, HE SAID. GOP HAS PUT ALL POSSIBLE OBSTACLES IN PATH OF CHURCH' S EFFORTS TO TRAIN LOCAL BLACK HIERARCHY. ONLY BLACK BISHOP IS AUXILIARY AT LUANDA, MSGR. MUACA, WHO GASPARI SAID IS FIRST CLASS MAN. MAIN PERSONNEL PROBLEM FACING VATICAN NOW IS REPLACEMENT OF BISHOP OF BEIRA IN MOZAMBIQUE. VOLPE

SECRET

NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME06029
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: XGDS-1
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730631/aaaajrnu.tel
Line Count: 149
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 73 LUSAKA 1101
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2001 by willialc>; RELEASED <13-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>; APPROVED <16-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980303
Subject: LATEST VATICAN THINKING ON PORTUGUESE AFRICA
TAGS: PFOR, PO, VT
To: AF
LISBON
LONDON
LOURENCO MARQUES
LUANDA
LUSAKA
SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005